

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, March 14, 1974

17

## FIRE LEVELS GURNET COTTAGES

Two summer cottages were destroyed together with a storage shed, and a third cottage was damaged, as wind-fanned flames spread throughout a section of The Gurnet on the morning of March 7.

The owners of the 2 cottages, Joel White of 14 Puritan Rd., Duxbury, and Thomas Sabin of 54 Central St., South Easton.

The storage shed was owned by William McGraw of Duxbury, the damaged cottage by Crawford Wright of Middleboro.

All the dwellings were vacant when the fire started.

The cause of the fire is unknown. The state fire marshal's office will investigate.

Fire officials said a call came in to the department at 7:39 a.m. from Coastguardsmen stationed at the lighthouse 200 yards away.

The Gurnet and Saquish are both in Plymouth, although at the end of Duxbury Beach. The long, narrow strip can only be traversed by jeep or dune buggy, and the only access is via the Powder Point Bridge in Duxbury.

Both Kingston and Duxbury fire departments lent mutual aid with 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Coast Guardsmen had already set up a portable water pump and were fighting the fire when fire-fighters arrived. Three year round residents, including John Caldwell of Powder Point, manned an old fire engine garaged there.

The 2 cottages were leveled within an hour. A fire official said if a west wind had been blowing harder during the height of the fire, several more homes would have been lost.

